

a plurality of interface control servers for controlling environment maintenance devices, said interface control servers adapted to respond to interprocess calls;

a client for communicating with said interface control servers; and

a messaging control at said client and at each of said plurality of interface control servers for exchanging text messages between said client and each of said plurality of interface control servers in accordance with said messaging controls, wherein said messaging controls at said interface control servers are adapted to interpret said text messages and to communicate with said interface control servers in accordance with interprocess calls.

B1
A2
end

9. A method for controlling environment maintenance equipment comprising the steps of:

connecting an interface control server to an environment maintenance device;

installing a first message control at said interface control server, said message control adapted to interpret text messages and to communicate with said interface control server in accordance with interprocess calls;

installing a second message control at a client;

entering a text message at said client;

communicating said text message from said client to said interface control server in accordance with said first message control and said second message control; and

controlling said environment maintenance device at said interface control

B1
A3